



Green Collar Jobs Council

FACT SHEET

Regional Industry Clusters of Opportunity Grant

The California Workforce Investment Board's (State Board) Sector Strategies approach to bolstering regional economic competitiveness requires the development of regional initiatives that are based upon a data driven analytical framework. In support of this framework, the ***Regional Industry Clusters of Opportunity Grant (RICOG)*** solicitation was developed jointly by the State Board, the California Energy Commission (Energy Commission), and the California Economic Strategy Panel (ESP). Approximately, \$2.2 million dollars in funding for the grants comes from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), Workforce Investment Act Governor's Discretionary 15 percent portion of the federal Workforce Investment Act and Assembly Bill 118, Alternative and Renewable Fuel and Vehicle Technology Program (AB 118).

These grants will bolster regional economic competitiveness by building the capacity of regional collaborations to identify growing industries, undertake strategic planning and leverage public/private resources. The funding available will support the utilization of the Industry Cluster of Opportunity Methodology to develop the data-driven analysis necessary for the formation of relevant regional sector initiatives. The State Board's intent is that the resulting data-driven analyses will serve as the foundation for developing and implementing regional clusters of opportunity strategies and for involving partners in advancing the competitive position of targeted clusters resulting in economic prosperity.

Local Workforce Investment Boards (LWIB'S) applied for funds within the following four phases of activities:

Clusters of Opportunity Diagnosis: Research and analyses of one or more regional cluster of opportunity. This activity should include quantitative cluster research, qualitative value chain analysis, analysis of cluster occupational categories and skill-set requirements and related tasks to develop a firm understanding of a region's transforming economy.

Collaborative Priority-Setting: Design and implement a collaborative cluster engagement process based on the results of the research and analyses described above. This activity should engage cluster employers and community stakeholders to identify shared priorities for an overall cluster of opportunity strategy.

Cluster of Opportunity Investment Strategy: Identify and connect specific investments and other commitments among local, state, and federal government partners, as well as private firms and industry associations, and non-profit and private foundation partners, and others to advance the

competitive position of regionally targeted clusters of opportunity (selected through the process described above) through workforce and economic development partnerships. This activity should produce an overall strategy with specific organizational commitments and champions organized around shared cluster priorities.

Sustainable Implementation: Support the long-term sustainability and growth of regional clusters of opportunity. This activity should produce a set of broader organizational and policy changes to sustain and expand regional cluster of opportunity strategies, as well as a lasting mechanism to support ongoing collaboration among all the partners.

Regional Action Clinics

In support of the regional project teams, Action Clinics will be conducted by Collaborative Economics to provide technical assistance to grantees, and serve as a platform to engage local workforce investment boards, businesses, stakeholders and investors to collaborate as they identify their growing industries, undertake strategic planning and leverage public and private resources. Four action clinics are scheduled to take place from April 2010 to April 2011 to support the four phases of RICOG.

Regional Project Teams

In February 2010, RICOGs were awarded to the following ten Workforce Investment Boards:

- Fresno County Workforce Investment Board – Amador, Calaveras, Fresno, Kern, Kings, Inyo, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, Mono, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Tuolumne counties
- Humboldt County Workforce Investment Board – Del Norte, Humboldt, Mendocino, Siskiyou, Trinity counties
- Northern Rural Training and Employment Consortium – Butte, Del Oro, Lassen, Modoc, Nevada, Plumas, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Tehama, Trinity counties
- North Valley Job Training Consortium (NOVA) – Santa Clara, San Mateo counties
- Pacific Gateway Workforce Investment Board – Los Angeles, Orange, Ventura counties
- Sacramento Employment Training Agency – El Dorado, Sacramento, Sutter, Yolo, Yuba counties
- San Bernardino County – Riverside, San Bernardino counties
- San Diego Workforce Partnership – San Diego county
- Santa Barbara Workforce Investment Board – San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Ventura counties
- Workforce Investment Board of Contra Costa – Alameda, Contra Costa, Solano counties

